



NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2022

With the second term of this school year now well under way, I would like to welcome everyone back following the October break. We start this term slightly later than previous years and therefore also finish the term much later for the Christmas holiday.

The term ahead will be busy as our senior pupils work towards prelim exams in January of next year. Our S1/2/3 pupils will also be busy completing coursework and undertaking assessments to help monitor progress and performance.

Regardless of year group, it is important that all pupils continue to demonstrate a positive approach to their studies and to learning. Your role at home to help reinforce the importance of hard work and determination is important and I would like to thank you in advance for your support this term.

Staff Update

Andy Morton (Chemistry) and Andy Campbell (Business Studies) both departed prior to the October break and we wish them well for a long and healthy period of retirement.

Carol Anne Craig (Computing) also left at the end of last term to relocate back to North Ayrshire. We are in the process of recruiting a Computing teacher.

Sandra Giner (Modern Languages) leaves Dumfries High School after a short spell with us. We are also now trying to recruit a Modern Languages teacher on a temporary basis.

S4/5/6 Reports

Senior interim reports will be issued to all parents/carers no later than Friday 18 November. Please take some time to discuss the reports with your child as this will be based on progress to date and reflect performance in the recent October Assessment week. Importantly, reports will also give advice and guidance about how pupils can make further improvements in advance of the January 2023 prelims.

Study Support

Study support sessions for subjects/levels are available for pupils in all year groups to attend during lunch and after school each week day. Such sessions will be of particular benefit to senior pupils who are working towards National Qualifications this year. Please encourage your child to attend where possible and build this into part of a weekly study programme. Details of study support sessions available have been emailed to parents/carers and are also listed on the school website.

S4/5/6 Prelim Exams - January 2023

Prelim examinations for pupils in S4/5/6 will begin on Monday 16 January 2023 and finish on Friday 27 January 2023. Prelim performance is an absolutely vital element to help ensure that all senior phase pupils achieve the best possible outcomes in every course this year. Parents/carers have a crucial role to play within this and once again I would ask for your help to ensure that your child has a programme of study in place at home for the term between October and Christmas.

Record of Attainment Booklets

Following the October assessments, all S4/5/6 pupils now have a detailed record of next steps in learning to help further progress to be made in advance of the January prelims. Please take some time to discuss this with your child.

Free School Meals/Clothing Grants/EMA

Forms for parents/carers wishing to apply for free school meals and/or a clothing grant can be collected from the main school office. An electronic version is also available on our website or at the following address: <http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15246/School-clothing-grants>.

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) forms and guidance notes are also available at the main office. In relation to EMA, a fresh application must be made each academic year and submitted with all documentation needed to complete the assessment.

School Photographs

Please note that the deadline for returning orders to purchase school photographs is **Tuesday 15 November**. This will help to ensure delivery in time for Christmas. Envelopes with orders and payments should be returned to the main office no later than next Tuesday.

Christmas Fayre 2023 – Thursday 17 November

I am delighted to be in a position once again to open our doors for our annual Christmas Fayre. This takes place next Thursday 17 November between 6pm – 8pm in the main school hall. We have over 60 arts and crafts stalls available to help purchase some early Christmas presents. Hot and cold food will also be available in addition to festive entertainment.

Christmas Ceilidh's

Our junior Christmas ceilidh will take place on Tuesday 13 December with the senior ceilidh taking place the following week on Tuesday 20 December. The Nicky McMichan Ceilidh Band will be providing entertainment on both evenings. Tickets will be on sale soon.

S1 Paris Trip

A small number of places still remain available for the S1 Paris trip next May. A deposit of £145 is required to secure a place on this trip which we are delighted to be able to reinstate following the last few years. Please contact Lauren Wilson, PT Languages, if you require any further information.

Dates for the Diary

Thursday 17 November	DHS Christmas Fayre (6pm – 8pm)
Friday 18 November	S4/5/6 Interim Reports issued
Tuesday 13 December	Junior (S1/2/3) Christmas Ceilidh
Friday 16 December	S1/2/3 Tracking Reports issued
Tuesday 20 December	Senior (S4/5/6) Christmas Ceilidh
Friday 23 December	End of Term
Tuesday 10 January 2023	New Term Begins (Pupil's return)
Monday 16 January 2023 – Friday 27 January 2023	Senior (S4/5/6 Prelims)

Best wishes

